

CITY OF ROCHESTER



REPORT

OF

Medical Officer of Health

URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

AND

PORT SANITARY DISTRICT

1925

ROCHESTER :

BALLARD & SON, PRINTERS, 336 HIGH STREET

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INDEX.

Adoptive Acts and Bye-laws	6
Area of District	3
Bacteriological Examinations	6
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	10
Births and Birth Rate	...	...	...	...	...	4
Cesspool Emptying	...	...	...	...	...	9
Clinics	...	...	...	...	...	6
Complaints	...	...	...	...	...	7
Contagious Diseases (Animals) Act	...	...	...	...	...	24
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	...	...	...	...	...	11
Deaths and Death Rate	...	...	...	...	4, 16, 18, 25	
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	...	18
Disinfection	...	...	...	...	10, 18	
Drainage	...	...	...	...	...	7
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	...	17, 18	
Factory and Workshop Act	...	...	...	...	10, 11	
Food and Drugs Act	...	...	...	...	...	15
Food Inspection	...	...	...	...	9, 14	
Hospitals	...	...	...	...	...	5
Hospital, Isolation	...	...	...	...	5, 24	
Housing and Housing Statistics	...	...	...	...	12-14	
Housing Act Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	8
Infant Mortality	...	...	...	...	20-23	
Infections Diseases	...	...	...	...	16-20	
Inspections, Summary of	...	...	...	...	...	10
Maternity and Child Welfare	...	...	...	...	20-23	
Milk Supply	...	...	...	...	...	14
Notices Served	...	...	...	...	...	10
Notifications of Infections Diseases	...	...	...	...	16, 17	
Nuisance Inspections	...	...	...	...	...	8
Nursing Arrangements, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	6
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...	...	...	...	...	23
Poor Law Relief	...	...	...	...	...	5
Population	...	...	...	...	...	3
Privies	...	...	...	...	...	7
Privy Emptying	...	...	...	...	...	9
PORT SANITARY DISTRICT REPORT	...	...	...	...	...	26-29
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	...	...	18
Rag Flock Act	...	...	...	...	...	24
Rainfall	...	...	...	...	...	24
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	3
Rats	...	...	...	...	...	24
Sanitary Improvements (Summary)	...	...	...	...	...	8-9
SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT	...	...	...	...	...	7-10
Sewerage	...	...	...	...	...	7
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	...	17
Scavenging	...	...	...	...	...	7
Staff	...	...	...	...	...	6
Slaughter Houses	...	...	...	...	...	11
Statistical Tables	...	...	...	...	4, 16-25	
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	19, 20	
Venereal Disease	...	...	...	...	...	24
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	6

City of Rochester



Report as to Urban District

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

GUILDHALL,

March 27th, 1926

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to lay before you the following Report as to the Sanitary condition of your District for the year 1925

This is a Survey Report, the second since 1920, and deals comprehensively, according to the instructions of the Ministry of Health, with the Sanitary conditions prevalent in the District. The intervening Reports are called Ordinary, and are not required to give such full and detailed information.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,

Medical Officer of Health

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

AREA, IN ACRES, LAND AND INLAND WATER	...	...	...	2,936
	CENSUS 1921			ESTIMATED 1925
POPULATION	... 31933	...	...	for } BIRTH RATE 32080
				} DEATH RATE 31980
NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES (1921)	...	...	...	7076
NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS (1921)	...	...	...	7244
RATEABLE VALUE (POOR RATE)	...	...	...	£146,652
	(GENERAL DISTRICT RATE)	...	...	£138,365
SUM REPRESENTED BY A PENNY RATE:—				
BOROUGH RATE	...	...	...	£609
EDUCATION RATE	...	...	...	£586
GENERAL DISTRICT RATE	...	...	...	£556

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA

These were fully set forth in the last Survey Report and as they have undergone no material change, it seems unnecessary to recapitulate them.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The prosperity of Rochester depends mostly on its River Trade, on the Cement Industry, on Engineering Works, on Agriculture, in connection with which there is a Cattle Market, and on the proximity of the Royal Naval Dockyard of Chatham.

There is no evidence that occupation in any of these directions is specially injurious to health.

The population of the District is both Residential and Working Class, the latter greatly predominant and increasing in proportion.

VITAL STATISTICS					
		TOTAL	M	F	
BIRTHS ...	{ LEGITIMATE	528	273	255	} BIRTH RATE (R.G.) 16'8
	{ ILLEGITIMATE	11	4	7	
DEATHS...		361	171	190	DEATH RATE (R.G.) 11'2
NUMBER OF WOMEN DYING IN, OR IN CONSEQUENCE OF,					{ FROM SEPSIS 1
CHILDBIRTH	...	...	...	...	{ OTHER CAUSES 1

The Registrar-General's Table of Causes of Death appears at the end of the Report on Page 25

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE PER 1,000 BIRTHS:—

LEGITIMATE, 53	ILLEGITIMATE, 181'8	TOTAL, 55'6
DEATHS FROM MEASLES (ALL AGES)	...	1
" " WHOOPING COUGH (ALL AGES)	...	5
" " DIARRHOEA (UNDER 2 YEARS OF AGE)	...	2

The following Table shows a comparison between the "Rates" in this District and those in other parts of England and Wales for the year 1925.

	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infant Mortality per 1,000 births
England and Wales	18'3	12'2	75
105 County Boroughs and Great Towns	18'8	12'2	79
157 Smaller Towns	18'3	11'2	74
London	18	11'7	67
Rochester	16'8	11'2	55'6

The following Table gives the Vital Statistics for the preceding five years:—

TABLE I.
Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1925 and Previous Years
Name of District—ROCHESTER

YEAR.	Popula- tion estimated to middle of each year.	Births.			Total Deaths Registered in the District.		Transferable Deaths		Nett Deaths belonging to the District.			
		Un- corrected Number.	Nett.		Number	Rate	of Non- Residents Registered in the District	of Residents not Registered in the District.	Under 1 year of age		At all Ages.	
			Number	Rate					Number	Rate per 1,000 nett. Births.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
1920	{ 33849* { 32110†	788	803	23·7	535	16	201	47	54	67·2	381	11·4
1921	31500	673	698	22·1	492	15·6	177	50	54	77·3	365	11·5
1922	31560	611	615	19·4	490	15·6	154	49	36	58·5	391	12·3
1923	32010	596	611	19	447	13·9	157	39	28	45·8	329	10·2
1924	{ 32490* { 32090†	529	546	16·8	485	15·1	155	39	33	60·4	369	11·4
1925	{ 32080* { 31980†	538	539	16·8	507	15·8	193	47	30	55·6	361	11·2

* For Birth Rate † For Death Rate

AMOUNT OF POOR LAW RELIEF¹

There are two Boards of Guardians concerned with the administration of Poor Law Relief in the City of Rochester, the Medway Union on the South and the Strood Union on the North side of the River. Owing to this dual control it is necessary to put forward two sets of figures, which have been courteously supplied by the respective Clerks. The figures are as follows:—

SOUTH

	1900	1905	1910	1919	1925
Indoor Relief	170	114	166	142	99 at £1/1 per wk.
Outdoor Relief	390	185	160	76	117
Cost of Out Relief	£1839	£1127	£878	£667	£1668

NORTH

	1914	1919	1925
Indoor Relief	238 at 7/- per week	162 at 10/4½ per week	139 at £1/2/3 per wk.
Outdoor Relief	239 at a total cost of £651	110 at tot. cost of £413	256 at tot. cost £750

There were during the year 79 lunatics chargeable, 40 from the South and 39 from the North side. In each case the cost was £1/0/5 per week per head.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS OR INVALIDITY

There have been no special causes of sickness and invalidity during the year nor has it been observed that there are any conditions of occupation or environment which appear to be prejudicial to health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Hospitals

1. TUBERCULOSIS

The treatment of Tuberculosis is undertaken by the County Council and suitable cases from this District are admitted to their Sanatoria as occasion requires. There is no Sanatorium for Tuberculosis situated in the District. The Medway Board of Guardians, which administers the Poor Law for that part of this District which is South of the River, make provision at their Infirmary at Chatham for 33 patients suffering from Tuberculosis.

2. MATERNITY

There is a Naval Maternity Home at Gillingham to which patients from this District can be admitted on payment, but very little use is made of this facility. There are also Eight Maternity Beds at the Medway Infirmary.

3. CHILDREN

There is a Children's Ward at St. Barthomew's Hospital.

4. FEVER

St. William's Isolation Hospital, situated in the District, and serving both Rochester and Chatham provides 80 beds and this number is in process of increase to 96. From the 1st of January, 1926, cases of Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Typhoid Fever from Gillingham will be admitted to this Hospital. Having regard to the slight incidence of these diseases in the last few years in these three Towns, it is considered that this accommodation will be sufficient except in times of widespread epidemics when any extent of accommodation might prove inadequate.

5. SMALL POX

There is a Hospital of 24 beds situated in the District for the joint use of Rochester and Chatham. Gillingham makes its own provision for Small Pox.

6. OTHER

The Poor Law Infirmary at Chatham, which serves part of this District, has 380 beds, which are allotted as follows:—

General	...	323	Children	...	16
Tuberculosis	...	33	Maternity	...	8

St. Bartholomew's General Hospital, Rochester

This Hospital, situated within the District, serves a population of 200,000. Its beds numbering 126, are allocated as follows:—

Medical	...	37	Surgical	...	77
Orthopaedic	...	4	Ophthalmic	...	8

It has the following Special Departments:—

Massage	Orthopaedic	Electrical
Remedial Exercises	Pathological	"X" Rays
Ophthalmic	Ear, Nose and Throat	V.D. Clinic

The accommodation is insufficient for the large area served and at the present time an appeal is being made for £80,000 to enable the Hospital to do its work in a complete and efficient manner. This is an appeal which no humane person will care to ignore.

PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN

There is no Institutional Provision for any of these in the Area except such as is provided by the Poor Law Authorities.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

- a. A Horse Ambulance is kept for the removal of Infectious Cases.
- b. An Ambulance for non-Infectious and Accident Cases is maintained by the St. John's Ambulance Association and is available at all times.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

	Situation	Accommodation	By whom Provided
SCHOOL CLINIC	Strood House, The Common, Rochester	Sufficient	Rochester Corporation
TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY	13 New Rd., Rochester		Kent County Council
TREATMENT CENTRE FOR VENEREAL DISEASES	St. Bartholomew's Hospital, New Rd., Rochester	Sufficient	St. Bartholomew's Hospital

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

The Staff consists of:—

1. The Medical Officer of Health, who is also Port Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent of St. William's Hospital for Infectious Diseases, which is a joint Hospital for Rochester and Chatham. A contribution is paid towards this officer's salary.
2. Chief Sanitary Inspector. This officer holds the Meat Certificate, and a contribution is paid.
3. One Sanitary Inspector. Meat Certificate and contribution paid.
4. One Assistant Sanitary Inspector. No Meat Certificate and no contribution.
5. Two Health Visitors. Fully qualified and with Midwives' Certificates. Contributions paid.
6. One Clerk. No contribution paid.

All these officers are whole time. No Special Nurses are employed by the Council, nor is there any Voluntary Organisation in direct touch with the Health Department.

The accommodation of the Health Department has been improved during the year by finding provision for the two Health Visitors, at Strood House, The Common, where they have an office and a room for the distribution of Dried Milk. This accommodation is entirely separate from other parts of the building, which are used for the purpose of a School Clinic.

PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME

1. There is no special provision for Infectious Cases.
2. For non-infectious and general cases the Trustees of Watt's Charity have a Staff of five Nurses, who undertake work throughout the District. Two of them are constantly employed in District Nursing, and are also registered Midwives under the supervision of the County Council. The remaining three are what is called Occasional Nurses and their duties lie in looking after chronic or bed-ridden cases of illness.

There is also a Jubilee District Nurse for the North side of the River.

MIDWIVES

These are entirely controlled by the County Council.

Arrangements for Chemical and Bacteriological Work

CHEMICAL WORK

So far as regards Food and Drugs, this is carried out by the Public Analyst for the City and the results for the year appear on page 15.

BACTERIOLOGICAL WORK

The work under this heading is carried out at the County Bacteriological Laboratory at Maidstone. In addition, a Quarterly Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of the Strood water supply is conducted by Dr. Spitta, St. George's Hospital, London.

The various results appear in another part of the Report.

Legislation in Force

ADOPTIVE ACTS, BYE-LAWS AND LOCAL REGULATIONS

The following are in force:—

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890	...	Adopted in 1890
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890	...	Adopted in 1891
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	...	Adopted in 1909
Public Health Act, 1925, Parts II. to V.	...	Adopted in 1926

Bye-Laws:—

Slaughter Houses	...	Made in September, 1921
Offensive Trades (Fish Frying)	...	Made in December, 1911
Common Lodging Houses (P.H. Act, 1875)		
Regulations under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order, 1885		

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER

The Water Supply for the District is drawn from two sources, one on each side of the River. On the South side, the supply is from the wells of the Brompton, Chatham, Gillingham and Rochester Waterworks Company. The main source of this supply is from shallow wells dug in the chalk, but a portion of it comes from the greensands. Samples of this water are submitted to Chemical and Bacteriological Analysis every three months and the reports are uniformly satisfactory.

On the North side, the supply is also from a shallow well dug in chalk, and the undertaking is the property of the Corporation.

As has been described in previous reports, this water has been subject to contamination by surface drainage. For this reason it is now treated by Chlorine before it is stored in the Reservoirs, with the result that it is perfectly safe for drinking purposes.

Both the crude and the treated water are subjected to Bacteriological and Chemical Analysis every three months, and a further independent Bacteriological Examination of both is made every month. So far as the treated water is concerned, the results, as stated above, are always satisfactory. The crude water occasionally shows evidence of organic contamination, but only to a very slight degree. None the less, having regard to the character, situation and surroundings of the well, it would not be wise to abandon the measures of precaution which are at present in operation.

In both cases the supply is sufficient and constant.

There are only nine premises in the District which have not water laid on and these are situated at some distance from the Mains.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Medway flows through the District and is Tidal during its whole course therein. It is navigable by large ships as far as Rochester Bridge, and above that by barges and smaller craft. Its waters are undoubtedly polluted by the dejecta from various vessels and by a certain amount of crude sewage, principally contributed by His Majesty's Dockyard, at Chatham, which is allowed to discharge into the River. This, however, will be shortly amended when the Main Drainage System, now in course of construction, is completed.

The large volume of water entering and leaving with each Tide, prevents any apparent nuisance arising from this crude sewage except in one or two places where the outfall is considerable.

In the lower reaches of the River are areas of Oyster Beds which are kept under strict supervision and invariably shew a freedom from organic pollution. In higher parts of the River, however, approaching Rochester Bridge, shell fish are sometimes gathered by unauthorized persons from prohibited areas, and these shell fish are occasionally credited with the responsibility for sporadic cases of Typhoid Fever.

With the exception of the River Medway there is no stream or even brook in the District.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The District is efficiently drained so far as regards surface water. With regard to Sewerage and Sewage Disposal it is unnecessary to describe the present Cesspool System since it is about to come to an end. Acting jointly with the neighbouring Borough of Chatham, the Corporation of Rochester has embarked on a Main Drainage Scheme which will for ever remove its stigma of being a "Cesspool" Town. The work was begun in February, 1925, and up to the time of writing about one-third of the Sewers have been laid.

The sewage will, ultimately, after passing under Chatham Hill, be treated at a site on the River-side called Motley, about five miles below Rochester Bridge.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Nearly all the houses in the District have W.C.'s which drain into Cesspools. In outlying parts, however, and in some localities in which it has been impossible to dig Cesspools, there are Open Privies. Of these there are still about 100 in the District. During the year, 36 have been converted into W.C.'s, or demolished and replaced by W.C.'s. In the last 18 years 900 Open Privies have ceased to exist. When Main Drainage is established the number will be near the vanishing point.

SCAVENGING

Household refuse is removed every day from the High Street, and on alternate days from other parts of the District. It is carried in covered Motor Vans to the Refuse Heap which is situated near some Brickfields in the District of the Strood Rural Authority. The Brickfields Company make a payment for this Refuse, and use the sifted ashes in the manufacture of their bricks. When this arrangement first came into operation, the dump was in close proximity to a number of houses, and bitter complaints were received of nuisances arising from offensive smells, from flies and from crickets. These complaints were well founded and a new site for the dump was chosen on the far side of the Brickfields from the houses. This site, although much better than the first, cannot be considered ideal, and nuisances are bound to continue unless the most careful and continuous steps are taken to mitigate them. Such steps consist in the regular covering of fresh Refuse with a layer of earth or fine ashes. It is understood that this practice is being carried out and so long as it continues to be observed promptly and thoroughly, with proper supervision, justifiable complaints are not likely to arise on the above mentioned grounds.

The arrangements made by the citizens generally for putting out their domestic refuse for collection are deplorable. Any old uncovered box, tin or bucket is considered sufficient provision. Some of the better class houses are properly equipped, but not, by any means, all.

In Report after Report attention to this state of affairs has been drawn without the slightest effect, and since the Local Authority has ample power to remedy the matter, it can only be a matter of surprise that this power is not exercised.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

I beg to offer my 18th Annual Report on the sanitary inspection of the City. The information given shows that there was less activity in certain branches of work as compared with the previous year, but it must be mentioned that for several months the staff was reduced by the absence through illness of Assistant Inspector A. B. Saunders, whose death later was much regretted.

COMPLAINTS

298 complaints as to housing defects and insanitary conditions were received and attended to during the year.

HOUSING ACT INSPECTIONS

The undermentioned 75 houses were inspected and reported upon to the Council under the provisions of the Housing Acts :—

Bramble Tree Cottages	...	...	...	...	...	18
Cazeneuve Street	...	...	...	...	...	3
Friary Place	...	...	...	...	...	13
Holcombe Road	...	...	...	...	...	1
Hoopers Road	...	...	...	...	...	2
John Street	...	...	...	...	...	22
King Street	...	...	...	...	...	7
Miles Place	...	...	...	...	...	3
Thomas Street	...	...	...	...	...	5
Wykeham Street	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						75

Four houses, Nos. 17 and 19, Love Lane, and Nos. 89 and 91, John Street, were formally closed during the year. Five other houses, Nos. 1, 3 and 4, Medway Cottages, Pelican Yard, No. 11, Tunnel Cottages, Station Road and No. 1, Spillett's Cottages, Northgate, were voluntarily closed by the owners.

Nos. 17 and 19, Love Lane were subsequently sold and the new owner, with the Council's sanction, carried out extensive improvements and thorough overhauling, making it possible for the Closing Orders to be formally determined.

In accordance with Demolition Orders, Nos. 44 and 46, St. Margaret Street, and Nos. 89 and 91, John Street, were demolished during the past year. The former two houses were closed in 1923. The demolition of the two cottages at the end of John Street was followed immediately by the widening of Queen Street at that point; the inclusion of the greater part of the site of the two cottages in the widening effected a very desirable road improvement.

Notable housing improvements were made during the year at the block of 14 houses, Nos. 1 to 8, Davis Square and Nos. 28 to 38, Corporation Street. In 1924 these houses were under Housing Act Notices for extensive repairs and improvements, and notice had been given by the owner of intention to appeal for Closing Orders. At the suggestion of the Health Department, the Council purchased the property and instructed the City Surveyor to carry out work which the Housing Act Notices had required. This and more has been done, and the property is now in a better condition than it had been for many years.

Another great improvement was effected at Bramble Tree Cottages, Borstal. These 18 houses obtained their water supply from a well, and although the water in it gave satisfactory results on analysis, great inconvenience was caused to the tenants by the fact that the water had to be hand-hauled and carried a considerable distance. The difficulty to be overcome lay in the fact that the Water Company's nearest main was about a quarter of a mile away. With the Health Department as negotiator, arrangements were made with the owner of a private pipe line served with the Company's water, and which was about 150 yards from the nearest of the 18 houses, to permit service of the cottages through his main service pipe. By getting the water supply to the property it was possible also to deal with the 18 insanitary privies. The owner agreed to build 18 new W.C.'s with flushing apparatus and drainage complete, and this work is now well towards completion. Complete overhaul of the interior of the houses is another part of the work in hand.

NUISANCE INSPECTIONS

In addition to the 75 houses inspected under the Housing Acts, 405 other premises were dealt with on account of existing insanitary conditions. Notices were served, re-inspections followed, and in all cases of re-drainage or extensive repairs frequent visits were made while the work was in progress.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

As the result of inspections, 3182 improvements of various kinds were effected on properties in the City during the year. The details are set out below :—

Houses re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	85
Stable re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	1
Workshop re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	1
Houses partly re-drained	...	...	...	...	...	38
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	16
Drains unstopped and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	176
New ventilated soilpipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	7
New ventshafts fixed	...	...	...	...	...	60
Soilpipes or ventshafts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
Privies abolished and replaced by W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	36
New W.C. apartments built	...	...	...	...	...	29
W.C.'s provided with new pans and traps	...	...	...	...	...	125
W.C.'s provided with flushing apparatus	...	...	...	...	...	91
W.C. fittings repaired and cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	49
New urinals built	...	...	...	...	...	1
New cesspools dug	...	...	...	...	...	11
Cesspools enlarged	...	...	...	...	...	12
Cesspools repaired	...	...	...	...	...	25
Old cesspools filled in	...	...	...	...	...	11
New sinks fixed	...	...	...	...	...	89
Trapped wastepipes fixed	...	...	...	...	...	164
New lavatory basins fixed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Water Tests applied						354
Smoke Tests applied						127

MISCELLANEOUS

No. of houses closed	...	...	...	...	7
No. of houses demolished	...	...	...	...	4
Water supply laid on in houses	...	...	...	...	56
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	127
Guttering or downpipes provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	96
Additional light to rooms provided	...	...	...	...	8
Damp walls remedied	...	...	...	...	95
Yards repaved	...	...	...	...	36
Yard paving repaired	...	...	...	...	65
New wash-houses built	...	...	...	...	3
Defective floors repaired	...	...	...	...	150
Defective windows repaired	...	...	...	...	329
Defective wall and ceiling plaster repaired	...	...	...	...	234
Dirty walls cleansed	...	...	...	...	261
Dirty ceilings cleansed	...	...	...	...	222
Dirty houses cleansed (tenants' neglect)	...	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding abated	...	...	...	...	3
Smoke nuisance remedied	...	...	...	...	1
Nuisances from manure and refuse abated	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisances from animals abated	...	...	...	...	10
New cowshed erected	...	...	...	...	1
New milk stores erected	...	...	...	...	3
Miscellaneous defects remedied	...	...	...	...	427
Total					3182

CESSPOOL EMPTYING

The emptying of cesspools was proceeded with regularly during the year, and the work done by the plant was as follows:—

Total number of loads removed by day gang	...	...	...	...	8738
Number of loads removed by night soil men:—					
From cesspools	...	...	...	978	
From Privies	...	...	...	227	
					1205

In addition to the above work, 25 day loads and 4 night loads were removed from cesspools just outside the City boundary, and the cost of the work was charged to the owners concerned.

FOOD INSPECTION

The principal work in this connection was, as in previous years, the visitation of slaughter-houses and butcher shops, a strong endeavour being made to get the maximum advantage for the public from the requirements of the Meat Regulations. Mention of the fact that in the past year 1193 visits to slaughter-houses were made, as compared with 475 the previous year, will make it clear that the effort to secure a sound and wholesome meat supply for the city made heavy demands on time, both in and out of ordinary office hours. In the case of 64 animals the whole or considerable parts of the carcasses had to be condemned, and certain edible internal organs of 128 other animals had to be destroyed because of disease or other unsoundness. Details of these and of other unsound food dealt with are given in the list below:—

6 carcasses of cows	...	(5 Tuberculosis; 1 Ruptured Oesophagus)	
4 carcasses of heifers	...	(Tuberculosis)	
1 carcase of a steer	...	"	
14 forequarters of cow beef	...	"	
1 carcase of a calf	...	"	
32 carcasses of pigs	...	(26 Tuberculosis; 3 Septicæmia; 3 Fever)	
2 forequarters of pork	...	(Badly bruised)	
6 carcasses of sheep	...	(Emaciation and Dropsy)	
6 carcasses of lambs	...	(5 Emaciation; 1 Septicæmia)	
722 lbs. imported beef	...	(Unsound)	
76 lbs. salt beef	...	"	
90 lbs. mutton	...	"	
64 lbs. suet	...	"	
122 lbs. cooked meat	...	"	
18 lbs. sausages	...	"	
40 ox kidneys	...	"	
28 ox heads and tongues	...	(26 Tuberculosis; 2 Actinomycosis)	
36 ox livers	...	(20 Parasites; 9 Tuberculosis; 6 Tumours; 1 Cavernous Angioma)	
1 ox heart	...	(Pericarditis)	
27 pigs' heads	...	(Tuberculosis)	
26 pigs' livers	...	(19 Cirrhosis; 7 Decomposed)	
10 sheeps' livers	...	8 Parasites; 2 Cirrhosis)	
741 tins of fish		540 lbs. of honey	
74 tins of stewed kidney		12 6-lb. tins of corned beef	
20 lbs. of apples		21 tins of fruit	
8 tins of milk		1 tin of rabbit	
8 bags of figs		25 lbs. of prunes	
20 lbs. of dried peaches			

DISINFECTION

112 rooms were disinfected after the occurrence of cases of infectious disease.
30 rooms were fumigated with the object of destroying vermin.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND OFFICE WORK

Inspections:—

Primary inspection of premises	...	...	...	...	405
House-to-house inspections	...	...	...	...	75
Caravans inspected	...	...	...	...	76
Re-inspections after service of notices	...	...	...	...	1001
Visits to work in progress	..	...	..	...	1278
Visits to factories and workshops	...	...	...	...	18
Visits to bakehouses	...	...	...	...	36
Visits to slaughter-houses	...	...	...	...	1193
Visits to other premises for food inspection	...	...	...	...	189
Visits to cowsheds, dairies and milkshops	...	...	...	...	108
Visits to offensive trades	...	...	...	...	22
Visits to stables and mews	...	...	...	...	15
Visits re infectious disease	...	...	...	...	104
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	446
Total					4966

Office Work:—

Letters received and dealt with	...	...	...	...	1439
Complaints received and dealt with	...	...	...	...	298
Letters written	...	...	...	...	339
Intimation notices served	...	...	...	...	480
Statutory notices served	...	...	...	...	36
Notices sent out re cesspools and privies	...	...	...	...	248
Notices sent to schools re infectious disease	...	...	...	...	32
Plans of new drainage drawn	...	...	...	...	82
Reports to Health Committee	...	..	...	...	79

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. TOPPING,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

No action has been taken in this matter during the year.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS

1. BAKEHOUSES

There are fifteen on the Register.

They are all systematically inspected twice a year and many other occasional visits are paid. It may be said at once that a great improvement in the condition of these bake-houses has taken place in recent years. Some have been re-constructed and others structurally improved. There are still two or three incapable of improvement except after demolition but even in these cases the proprietors do their best to keep their premises as clean as possible.

The methods of distribution of the cooked loaves, however, seem to leave something to be desired. The loaf usually leaves the Bake-house in a cleanly condition but it has many opportunities of becoming soiled by the time it reaches the consumer. It is more or less subjected to dust which may be flying about in the streets, it may be put into dirty vans or baskets and finally it comes into contact with the naked hands of the persons who deliver it. All these things could be avoided if loaves were wrapped in paper before leaving the Bakehouse.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES

Homework—Wearing Apparel. Lists received, 12. Outworkers—Workmen 11.
Workshops on Register at end of year:—

Workshops, 64. Domestic Workshops, 55. Bakehouses, 15. Total, 134.

Matters notified by H.M. Inspector, 0. Remedied, 1 (Notified in 1924).

1. Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories (including Factory Laundries) ...	5	1	—
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries)	49	1	—
Workplaces (other than Outworkers premises)	—	—	—
Total	54	2	—

2. Defects Found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces

Particulars 1)	Number of Defects			Number o ffences in respect to which Prosecutions were instituted (5)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (4)	
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :—*</i>				
Want of cleanliness	3	3		
Want of ventilation				
Overcrowding				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances	5	4		
Sanitary accommodation {	insufficient	1	2	
	unsuitable or defective	1	1	
	not separete for sexes			
<i>Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts :—</i>				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)				
Other offences				
(Excluding offences relating to outwork and offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers Order, 1921).				
Total	10	10†	—	—

*Including those specified in sections 2, 3, 7 and 8 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1961, as remediable under the Public Health Acts.

†Includes 3 defects discovered in 1924 and not remedied until this year.

LODGING HOUSES

There is one Common Lodging House in the District. It is systematically inspected and there is no complaint as to its condition.

OFFENSIVE TRADES—FRIED FISH SHOPS

There are eleven in the District. All are frequently inspected and have been found to be conducted in a proper manner.

COW SHEDS

There are seven in the District. All are systematically inspected, and visited on many other occasions. One is an entirely new erection and has been constructed according to the most modern ideas of sanitation. The condition generally of the Cow Sheds has improved to some extent in the last five years, and it may be said that more regard is paid to cleanliness in milking. But there is still a long way to go before it can be reported that the milk produced in this District is as clean as it ought to be.

A Quarterly Inspection of all the Milch Cows in the District is made by Mr. Ebbetts, the Veterinary Surgeon, and reports are sent in.

MILK SHOPS AND DAIRIES

There are eighteen on the Register. They are all systematically inspected and it is found that in most cases reasonable care is taken to protect the Milk from contamination.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES

There are five in the District, three of which are registered and two licensed. During the year one Slaughter House has been demolished and the license withdrawn from another.

The condition of the remaining premises has greatly improved in the last five years, largely as a consequence of the unremitting attention given to them by the Sanitary Staff. A further improvement is likely to take place soon by the erection of a Model Slaughter House in Corporation Street. When this is accomplished, the four biggest Slaughter Houses in the District will be close together, close to the Cattle Market and close to the Railway Station, a condition of affairs approximating in some respects to a Public Abattoir.

A further account of Slaughter Houses and of unsound meat appears in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report attached to this Report.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE

As in previous years all stable manure has been required to be removed at intervals of not more than one week, from May to October. This is intended to stop the breeding of household flies and is of undoubted value. In this connection "Fly Posters" are distributed throughout the District in the early Spring.

The regular removal of offal from fish and fried-fish shops is undertaken by the Corporation, apart from the removal of ordinary household refuse, and a small fee is charged for the same.

The unsatisfactory methods of putting out household refuse receive attention in an earlier part of the Report

SCHOOLS

A complete Sanitary Survey of all the Elementary Schools in the District was made early in the year and a report sent in to the Education Committee. Reference to this matter is made in the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer which also deals with action taken with regard to the health of the scholars and for preventing the spread of infectious diseases.

HOUSING

(I.) GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS IN THE AREA

1. The number of inhabited houses at the Census of 1921 was 7076. Since then 144 houses have been erected under the Corporation Housing Scheme and 135 by private enterprise.

About six-sevenths of the total number of the houses in the District may be described as working class houses.

Since 1921, 37 houses have been demolished as being unfit for human habitation or for other reasons.

2. The Population, which was 31933 at the 1921 Census, is now estimated by the Registrar General at 31980. There is, therefore, an increase of population of 47, for which, on balance, 242 houses have been provided.

There is still an undoubted shortage of working class houses, possibly it may be put at about 100.

3. There is no reason to expect that there will be any important changes in the population in the next few years, just as there have been none in the last few.

(II.) OVERCROWDING

1. EXTENT. There is still considerable overcrowding, and an obvious tendency for those occupying a house to sub-let a portion of it, and thus often establish these conditions. In the case of the Corporation Houses no tenant is allowed to take in any lodger unless he has first obtained permission from the Medical Officer of Health. Should he disregard this rule, he is liable to eviction. A very large number of tenants apply for permission and invariably base their application on the ground of inability to pay the rent without the monetary assistance of lodgers. How far this is a bona-fide statement and how far it is prompted by a desire to make a profit, it is difficult to determine.

The degree of overcrowding generally in the District is not extreme, that is to say it chiefly exists in two small families occupying a house which is only intended for one.

2. CAUSES. Shortage of houses and an inability to pay the rent without the help of lodgers.

3. MEASURES TAKEN OR CONTEMPLATED. The Housing Scheme has already added 144 dwelling houses to the number available and the erection of a further 66 is about to be begun.

4. ACTION TAKEN. No prosecution has been undertaken during the year and no very definite steps have been available for dealing with overcrowding except those mentioned above in regard to the Corporation Houses.

(III.) FITNESS OF HOUSES

1. *a.* GENERAL STANDARD. The General Standard of the houses in the District has greatly improved in the last five years. As appears in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report, constant repairs and improvements are taking place.

A notable instance is that of a block of 23 houses in John Street. These houses were formerly rapidly falling into such a state of disrepair as to be unfit for human habitation, but a comprehensive scheme of repair and reconstruction was undertaken, with the result that the property is now entirely satisfactory, and provides accommodation for a number of that class which does not want to live in slums and cannot afford to take the Corporation houses.

b. GENERAL CHARACTER OF DEFECTS. Principally those of dilapidation, insufficient drainage, dampness, lack of sufficient facilities for water supply, and unsatisfactory sanitary accommodation.

c. RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEFECTS. Is far more due to lack of suitable action by owners than by waste or neglect on the part of the tenants. At the same time, it must be recognised that many of the owners are poor people who find it difficult to provide the money necessary for repairs, often a sum which will swallow up the rents perhaps for a year or two.

2. ACTION TAKEN AS REGARDS UNFIT HOUSES.

a. UNDER P.H. ACTS. There was no systematic house-to-house inspection during the year under these Acts, but, arising from complaints and otherwise, 234 houses were dealt with for insanitary conditions.

b. UNDER HOUSING ACTS. Seventy-five houses were inspected under these Acts, and with regard to four representations as to Closing were made.

3. DIFFICULTIES IN REMEDYING UNFITNESS.

Difficulties as regards remedying unfitness have already been to some extent described in a paragraph above under Fitness of Houses. In addition, in the case of very unfit houses which need demolition or almost complete reconstruction there is the difficulty that there is no other accommodation available for the persons who would have to vacate their dwellings during such demolition or reconstruction. This disability, however, does not appear to be so acute as it was.

(IV.) UNHEALTHY AREAS

There are no unhealthy Areas in the District.

(V.) BYE-LAWS (as to Houses, to Houses Let in Lodgings, Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.)

1. There are none.
2. None are needed.

(VI.) GENERAL AND MISCELLANEOUS

There is nothing to be added under this heading except that the people have been urged to burn as much of their household refuse as possible, but, as observed in an earlier part of this Report, their attitude towards the management of household refuse generally is one of extreme carelessness.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

a. Total (including numbers given separately under (b))	...	79
b. With State assistance under the Housing Acts		
(i). By the Local Authority	... ..	50
(ii). By other bodies and persons	... ..	16

Inspection.

1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	... ..	234
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910, or the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	... ..	75
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	... ..	2
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	... ..	73

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	227
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

A. Proceedings under Sec. 3 of the Housing Act, 1925.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	... ..	18
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—		
a. By Owners	... ..	38
b. By Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	0
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declaration by owners of intention to close	... ..	0

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	... ..	18
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—		
a. By Owners	... ..	15
b. By Local Authority in default of Owners	... ..	0

C. Proceedings under sections 11, 14 and 15, of the Housing Act, 1925

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	... ..	4
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	... ..	4
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	... ..	2
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	... ..	2
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	... ..	4

ADDITIONAL REMARKS

A. The following Table shows the number of dwelling houses built and demolished in the last 6 years together with the natural increase of population, that is, by excess of births over deaths.

TABLE II.

Year	Dwelling Houses Erected		Total	Demolished	Natural Increase of Population
	Privately	By Corporation			
1920	3	—	3	2	422
1921	7	94	101	3	333
1922	27	—	27	10	224
1923	29	—	29	—	282
1924	43	—	43	20	177
1925	29	50	79	4	178
Totals	138	144	282	39	1616

* From this Table, which may be compared with the remarks under Housing (I.) 2. on p. 12, it is seen that, on balance, 243 houses have been provided for a population which has naturally increased by 1616 persons. According to the Registrar-General the real increase of population is very much less than the natural increase, in fact, almost stationary.

B. Under the Will of the late Mr. Thomas Helyar Foord, Almshouses are being built in the District, and will provide accommodation for about sixty people. This will, of course, to some extent, improve the housing conditions. These Almshouses will be ready for occupation about the end of the current year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

a. Milk Supply

The quantity of the Milk which is produced in, or reaches the District from other sources, appears, to be sufficient for the needs of the people. Its quality, so far as regards deliberate adulteration appears under the heading of SALE OF FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, on p. 15, and may be said to be capable of improvement.

In respect of cleanliness, there is much room for criticism. During the year the Chief Sanitary Inspector has taken 85 samples of Milk, either from wholesalers or retailers, and ascertained their respective dirt content by filtration through cotton wool discs, using the Tustmun Sediment Tester.

The results are tabulated as follows :—

	Supplies as received from Farmers & Wholesalers	Retailers Supplies	Totals
Comparatively Clean	9	22	31
Dirty	3	28	31
Very Dirty	11	12	23
	<hr/> 23 <hr/>	<hr/> 62 <hr/>	<hr/> 85 <hr/>

This is a bad record, especially on the part of the Farmers and Wholesalers, and has led to the cautioning of several Dealers who have been told that if their Milk continues to shew so high a degree of dirt pollution, they will be struck off the Register under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies (Amendment) Act, 1922, Sec. 2.

On the other hand, it has to be recorded that three of the principal Dealers in the District have greatly improved their premises by installing Pasteurising and Cold Storage Plant, and other improvements, most of which are made necessary by the dirty condition of the Milk as it reaches them from the Farms.

I. ACTION TAKEN AS TO TUBERCULOUS MILK AND TUBERCULOUS CATTLE

No action has been taken as to Tuberculous Milk during the year.

With regard to Tuberculous Cattle, Mr. Ebbetts, Veterinary Surgeon to the Corporation, makes a Quarterly Inspection of all Milch Cows in the District, and sends in Reports.

Under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Order, 1925, which came into operation on September 1st, 1925, all Milk Producers are required to notify any animal in their herds which appears to present such symptoms as suggest Tubercle, and all were duly advised of their obligations in this respect.

Since the Order came into operation, two animals (one heifer, in calf, and one cow) have been notified. Both were slaughtered and were found to be extensively infiltrated with Tuberculosis and were condemned as unfit for human food.

The full benefit of this Order cannot be attained unless the Cow Keepers rise to a higher sense of their responsibility in the matter.

Other recent legislation which affects the Milk Supply is the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, which came into force on July 31st, 1925.

Under these Regulations, producers and retailers of Milk are required to cease to employ any servant in their business who is suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Those concerned were duly informed of the provisions of these Regulations. No case has been reported during the year.

II. LICENCES FOR THE SALE OF MILK UNDER SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS

One Licence is issued.

PASTEURISATION OF MILK

No Licence is issued for Pasteurisation at present.

III. REFUSAL OR REVOCATION OF LICENCE

No action in this matter.

IV. BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK

No samples of graded or other Milk have been Bacteriologically Examined during the year.

b. Meat

1. Under the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, which became operative on April 1st, 1925, a great advance was made in the inspection of newly-slaughtered Meat, in the condition of the butchers' shops, in the handling of Meat, and in its protection generally from contamination. All butchers in the District were supplied with an epitome of the Regulations and in each Slaughter House the particular parts of the Regulations affecting these premises, were posted, so that those employed there would constantly have before them a statement of their obligations.

Notices of intention to slaughter and the times thereof are sent in to the Health Office and this enables the Inspectors to view the Meat before it leaves the Slaughter Houses. This work has been very fully carried out by the Chief Sanitary Inspector and his Assistant, as appears in the Report of the former on p. 9.

It has entailed a great increase of work on these two Officials, particularly in the evenings and on Sundays.

Marking of Meat, under these Regulations has not been observed. It was not considered that the scattered positions of the Slaughter Houses and the limited Staff of Inspectors justified an application to the Ministry of Health for permission to carry out this part of the Regulations.

Condemned Meat is treated with disinfectant and sold to a Fat Melter.

2. The Regulations so far as regards Stalls, Shops, Stores and Vehicles, have been duly observed and although a little obstruction has been met with in their application, it has not been necessary to take legal proceedings in any instance.

3. There are no Public Slaughter Houses in the District.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES IN USE

	In 1920	In January, 1925	In December, 1925
Registered	5	4	3
Licensed	2	3	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	7	7	5

c. Other Foods

- Unsound Food and Food Inspection.
- Sanitary Condition of Premises.
- Condemnation for Tuberculosis.

These subjects are dealt with in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's Report on p. 9.

d. Food Poisoning

No case arose during the year.

e. Sale of Food and Drugs Acts

Analyses performed under the Acts during the year :—

Article	Number	Genuine	Adulterated
Milk	38	32	6
Preserved Cream	2	1	1
Pure Cream	4	4	
Butter	8	8	
Margarine	7	7	
Coffee	2	2	
Cheese	1	1	
Vinegar	1	1	
Lard	8	8	
Separated Milk	1	1	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	72	65	7

Percentage of adulteration, 9'7.

The average of the preceding 10 years is 12'45 per cent.

Thirty-eight samples of Milk were analysed and the percentage of the adulterations was 15'7. The average for the preceding five years is 16'9. It appears, therefore, that there is very little improvement in this matter of Milk adulteration, nearly 16 samples out of every 100 are shewn to be adulterated. This is because the practise of adulteration pays, and pays well. The profits easily cover a few insignificant fines, and the Magistrates might well consider the advisability of imposing such penalties as will be calculated to completely discourage this form of cheating.

Prosecutions took place in three instances, and fines of £2-0-0, £1-0-0 and £1-0-0 were imposed.

TABLE III.

f. Milk and Cream Regulations, 1912 and 1917

The following Table shows the action taken during the year under the Regulations :—

Article	Number of Samples Taken and Examined for Preservatives	Number in which Preservatives were reported to be present and Percentage of Preservatives found in each Sample
Milk	38	Nil
Separated Milk	1	Nil
Cream (not sold as Preserved Cream)	4	Nil
Cream (sold as Preserved Cream)	2	1. (Informal) '43% } Boric 2. (Informal) '4% } Acid

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

TABLE IV.

The following Table shows the Number of Notifications and Deaths in the Diseases enumerated, year by year, from 1920 to 1925 inclusive.

DISEASE	1920		1921		1922		1923		1924		1925	
	Notifi- cations	Deaths	Notifi- cations	Deaths	Notifi- cations	Deaths	Notifi- cations	Deaths	Notifi- cations	Deaths	Notifi- cations	Deaths
Scarlet Fever ...	60	0	52	1	55	1	19	0	36	0	25	0
Diphtheria ...	57	6	139	17	76	13	27	0	10	2	11	1
Enteric Fever ...	3	0	6	0	2	0	8	0	8	0	0	0
Small Pox ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	17	22	31	23	38	27	50	29	39	23	31	21
Non Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	7	8	3	5	19	13	28	4	23	12	18	4
Pneumonia ...	12	35	9	21	15	19	7	11	15	21	25	20
Malaria ...	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dysentery ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Polioencephalitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4	2	0	0
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	2
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	6	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	3	0
Puerperal Fever ...	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	1
Erysipelas ...	7	1	7	0	10	0	16	0	8	0	10	0
Polionyelitis ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Anthrax ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Its most striking features are :—

1. The diminishing incidence and low Mortality of Scarlet Fever.
2. The decline in Diphtheria although not so marked as in Scarlet Fever.
3. The complete absence of Enteric Fever Mortality.
4. The irregular incidence and Mortality of Tuberculosis.

The following Table gives the particulars of notified cases in 1925.

Tuberculosis is dealt with separately on p. 19.

NOTIFIABLE CASES DURING THE YEAR 1925
TABLE V.

Notifiable Disease.	Number of Cases Notified													Total Cases Notified in each Locality of the District.		Total Number of Cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths
	At all ages.	At Ages—Years															
		Under 1 Year.	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over	South	North		
Scarlet Fever.....	25	1		3	3	13	4	1					11	14	23	0	
Diphtheria.....	11	1	1		1	4	1	2		1			7	4	11	1	
Puerperal Fever	2								1	1			2			1	
Pneumonia.....	25	2		1		2	1		2	5	5	7	20	5		20	
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3											2	1		0	
Erysipelas	10					1			1	5	3		6	4		0	
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	2	1	1										2			2	
Poliomyelitis	1						1						1			0	
Totals.....	79	5	3	4	4	20	7	3	4	12	8	7	51	28	34	24	

Included in this table is one case of Diphtheria which was subsequently found to be wrongly diagnosed.
Both cases of Puerperal Fever were removed to St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN 1925 CONSIDERED SERIATIM

Enteric Fever, Encephalitis Lethargica, Continued Fever, Cholera, Small Pox, Trench Fever, Relapsing Fever, Plague, Typhus Fever, Para Typhoid Fever, Malaria, Dysentery, Polio-encephalitis. No case of any of these was notified during the year.

SCARLET FEVER

Twenty-five cases were notified and there was no death. Twenty-three of these cases were removed to Hospital.

As in recent years, the type of this disease was very mild, and in some cases the rash so evanescent as to render the diagnosis very difficult.

The Dick Test of susceptibility has not been used.

There was no evidence of the direct effect of overcrowding in spreading this disease.

DIPHTHERIA

Eleven cases were notified and there was one death. All these cases were removed to Hospital. As in Scarlet Fever, the type of disease was mild in character, nor was there evidence of the effect of overcrowding.

The Schick Test was not employed.

Thirty Bacteriological examinations were made during the year, with three positive and twenty-seven negative results.

Anti-Diphtheritic Serum is issued free of cost and is obtainable at all hours, day and night.

During the year there were eight applications for this Serum, and 52,000 units were issued at a cost to the Corporation of £3/13/3.

PUERPERAL FEVER

Two cases were notified and there was one death.

PNEUMONIA (all forms)

Twenty-five cases were notified and there were twenty deaths.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Three cases were notified. A Table giving particulars about these cases appears on p. 23.

ERYSIPELAS

Ten cases were notified and there was no death.

CEREBRO SPINAL MENINGITIS

Two cases were reported and both died. In neither case was the diagnosis confirmed bacteriologically.

POLIOMYELITIS

One case was notified and there was no death.

ENTERIC OR TYPHOID FEVER

No case was notified during the year, but the Widal Test was done in four suspected cases, all of which turned out to be negative.

Note.—A Table giving the figures for the past six years of Notification of, and Death from, Notifiable Diseases, appears on p. 16.

TABLE VI

The following Table shows the number of Deaths from Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases, year by year, from 1920 to 1925 inclusive:

Disease	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1925
	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths	No. of Deaths
Measles	4	0	5	3	0	1
Whooping Cough	1	4	2	3	0	5
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	5	5	2	2	5	2
Influenza	8	11	9	6	7	11

NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

MEASLES

There was one death from this disease during the year.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were five deaths.

RINGWORM

Eleven examinations for ringworm were made, ten of which turned out to be positive.

DIARRHOEA (Under 2 Years)

Two deaths were registered.

INFLUENZA

There were eleven deaths but no widespread outbreak.

OTHER INFORMATION

SCHOOL INTIMATIONS

Every Head Teacher is supplied with a book of forms for the purpose of sending a daily statement to the Medical Officer of Health of children absent from School by reason of non-notifiable Infectious Disease. In this way the Department is kept informed as to the prevalence of these Diseases.

VACCINATION

No primary or re-vaccinations have been performed by the Medical Officer of Health during the year.

DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION

Disinfection of rooms and their contents is achieved by means of formaldehyde fumigation.

Occasionally soft articles are steam disinfected at St. William's Hospital. Modern opinion is becoming more and more inclined to the view that infection is rarely conveyed by fomites or infected articles, and that personal contact is the determining factor.

No steps have been taken during the year with regard to Disinfestation, except in such cases as arise amongst School Children and which are fully described in the School Medical Officer's Report.

TUBERCULOSIS IN 1925

TABLE VII

Age Periods	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1			3	2				1
5	1	2	3			1		
10	2			1	1			
15	1	1		2	1		1	
20	5	1		1	1	2		
25	5	2		2	3	4		
35	5	1	1	2	4	2		1
45	4	1	1		1	1		
55								
65 & upwards							1	
Totals	23	8	8	10	11	10	2	2

The Notifications were divided as follows :

	SOUTH	NORTH	Totals
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	20	11	31
Non-Pulmonary do.	9	9	18
Totals ...	29	20	49

Five deaths from Pulmonary Tuberculosis out of a total of 21 had not been previously notified by Medical Practitioners, which shews that even yet, in spite of repeated reminders of their statutory obligations in this matter, there are Doctors who refuse, or neglect to notify.

Eighty eight specimens of sputum were submitted, during the year, to bacteriological examination with the result that nineteen were found to be positive and sixty-nine, negative.

The foregoing Table shews the age distribution and deaths from Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis in 1925.

In the Table on page 16 are shewn the number of Notifications and Deaths in the last six years. It does not appear from these figures that there is any continuous progressive decrease in the mortality from this disease in the District.

The diagnosis and treatment of Tuberculosis lie principally in the hands of the County Tuberculosis Officer who attends regularly at the local Tuberculosis Dispensary, and whose relations with the local medical men and with the Health and School Medical Officer are most satisfactory.

The Local Authority has very little to do directly with Tuberculosis except in matters of disinfection and sanitation. In this last word, however, is probably to be found the most powerful weapon with which Tuberculosis can be fought. If all slums and all overcrowding could be abolished, if the people could be secured a sufficient supply of pure air, pure water and pure food, Tuberculosis would decline in the same way as Typhoid Fever has declined since the conditions under which it thrived have been done away with. As it is, elaborate and expensive schemes of Sanatoria and Dispensaries have to be supported, which no doubt alleviate, and, in some cases, cure the disease, but cannot be said to prevent it.

The following information has been courteously supplied by Dr. Roper, the County Tuberculosis Officer :—

Particulars of patients from the Rochester District dealt with at the County Tuberculosis Dispensary during the year 1925.

Number of New Cases	...	...	...	...	99
Total number of attendances...	...	...	...	...	604
Number sent to Institution	...	...	...	...	21
Number receiving Tuberculin	...	...	...	...	Nil

Diagnosis—New Cases (excluding School Children):—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	17
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	5
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	3
Apparently Healthy	...	...	...	...	...	31
Under Observation	...	...	...	...	...	6

Diagnosis—New Cases (Children of School Age):—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	7
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	4
Apparently Healthy	...	...	...	...	...	18
Observation	...	...	...	...	...	2

Institutions to which patients were sent during the year:—

Lenham	...	...	...	...	...	5
Keycol Hill	...	...	...	...	...	5
Grosvenor	...	...	...	...	...	1
Cranbrook	...	...	...	...	...	2
Sevenoaks Isolation	...	...	...	...	...	1
R.S. Bathing Hospital, Margate	...	...	...	...	...	1
St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Rochester	...	...	...	...	...	1
Isolation Hospital, Dover	...	...	...	...	...	1
Croydon Boro', Cheam	...	...	...	...	...	1
Eversfield Chest Hospital	...	...	...	...	...	3

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925
and

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1925. Section 62

No action has been taken under either of the above during the year.

MATERNITY AND CHILD-WELFARE

I. INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES

The control and inspection of Midwives is entirely in the hands of the County Council, who took it over from the Local Authority some years ago.

In view of this the Health Department does nothing in this connection except to advise immediately the County Medical Officer of Health of any exceptional occurrence, such as Ophthalmia Neonatorum or Puerperal Sepsis.

II. INFANT MORTALITY AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

The following Table shews the Infant Mortality Rate in Rochester for the last six years in comparison with the average of the same Rate in the 157 Smaller Towns.

	157 Smaller Towns (average)	Rochester
1920	80	67'2
1921	84	77'3
1922	75	58'5
1923	69	45'8
1924	71	60'4
1925	74	57'6

General Average for last six years. Smaller Towns, 75'5. Rochester, 61'1.

Rochester has occasionally been criticised in that it has not, like most of the 157 Smaller Towns, a formal and elaborate Infant Welfare Centre. Judging from the above figures, the system adopted here is giving results which do not demand any immediate alteration. The leading features of this system are the employment of highly competent and trained Health Visitors, the careful supervision of the Infants in their homes, and the liberal issue of Dried Milk.

This Milk is distributed on two half days in each week, and the price charged regulated by the Scale of Incomes, approved by the Ministry of Health. It cost the Corporation £380 in 1925. In 1924, the cost was £442.

One or other of the Health Visitors issues the Milk and takes every opportunity of giving advice to the mothers who apply.

It cannot be doubted that Dried Milk, of good quality, and properly prepared, is a first-class food for Infants and it is very rarely found that it cannot be taken.

The practice of frequent visits to the homes of the children is of supreme importance. There it is possible to see the actual surroundings in which the Infant lives, a far more valuable proceeding than the inspection at a Centre of a child specially prepared for the occasion. It may be said that both practices should be employed. If money were no object, this could be done, or it might be demanded if the Rochester Infant Death Rate was 10 or 15 higher than the other Towns. As it is, it would not be prudent to deflect any of the time now given to Home Visiting from that essential work, to time to be spent at a Centre. Nor, under the circumstances, would it be justifiable to incur the extra additional expense which such a Centre would entail.

The following Table gives details as to Infant Mortality in 1925 :—

TABLE VIII.

INFANT MORTALITY

1925. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various ages under 1 Year of Age

CAUSES OF DEATH.		Under 1 week.	1-2 Weeks.	2-3 Weeks.	3-4 Weeks	Total under 4 Weeks.	4 Weeks and under 3 Months.	3 Months and under 6 Months.	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 Months.	Total Deaths under One Year
All Causes.	<div>Certified Uncertified</div>	12	2	2	1	17	6	6	1		20
Measles											
Whooping Cough							2	1	1		4
Meningitis (<i>not Tuberculous</i>)											
Convulsions											
Laryngitis											
Bronchitis								1			1
Pneumonia (all forms)							1	3			4
Diarrhœa											
Enteritis							1	1			2
Injury at Birth											
Congenital Malformations		2	1	1		4					4
Premature Birth		9		1		10					10
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus							1				1
Other Causes		1	1		1	3	1				4
Totals		12	2	2	1	17	6	6	1		30
Nett Births registered during the calendar year { legitimate, 528. illegitimate, 11. Nett Deaths registered during the calendar year { legitimate infants, 28 illegitimate infants 2											

Birth Rate 16'8. Infant Mortality Rate 55'6.

A consideration of this Table shews that 17 out of the 30 deaths took place under the age of four weeks, and that 10 out of these 17, or one third of the whole, were due to premature birth.

Infectious Disease, namely, Whooping Cough, accounted for 4, while only 2 were ascribed to diseases of the Digestive System. There was only one death from Marasmus. If all parents were healthy, if all parents desired children, and if all parents could afford to give their children proper surroundings, there need be practically no Infant Mortality except from occasional Infectious Disease or some abnormality in uterine life or at the time of birth. As matters stand, however, it may be taken that a large percentage of this mortality, particularly in those who die under four weeks of age, is unavoidable, and in many cases, cannot be considered a matter for great regret.

The following Report has been presented by Nurses Tod and Hinde, the Health Visitors :—

ANNUAL REPORT

BIRTHS

During the year 531 births were registered in the District of which 11 were illegitimate. The total was made up as follows :—

	Males	Females	Total
South	145	141	286
North	127	118	245
	<div>272</div>	<div>259</div>	<div>531</div>

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Three cases were notified, two from the South and one from the North side of the District. Of the three cases notified both eyes were affected in two cases and one eye in the remaining case. Two cases were treated by Doctors in their own homes and one at Hospital. Two recovered and one is still under treatment.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS ACT

During the year 531 births were registered in the District, and 521 were notified under the Act. Sixteen still births were notified. The notifications were made up as follows:—

Doctors	Midwives	Parents
232	289	0

Four hundred and seventy-two infants were visited by the Nurses who paid a total of 3,528 visits, or an average of 7.5 visits to each infant.

The following Table affords particulars respecting the Infants visited:—

INFANTS VISITED DURING 1925

	Total number, 472	
	Totals	Percentages
KIND OF FEEDING:—		
1. Entirely breast fed	297	62.9
2. Hand and breast fed	38	8.0
3. Entirely hand fed	137	29.9
KIND OF FOOD (when hand fed):—		
1. Fresh cow's milk and water	10	5.7
2. Dried Milk	129	73.7
3. Patent Foods	9	5.1
4. Condensed Milk	26	14.8
5. Biscuits, Oatmeal, etc.	1	.5
MODE OF FEEDING:—		
1. Boat shaped bottle	167	95.4
2. Long tube bottle	4	2.2
3. Spoon	4	2.2
CONDITION OF HOUSE:—		
1. Clean	411	87.6
2. Fairly clean	46	9.8
3. Dirty	9	1.9
4. Very dirty	3	.6
OVERCROWDED HOUSES:—		
More than two persons per bedroom		
Number of houses	295	62.8

All infants reckoned breast-fed in the above Table were still fed in the same way at or about the age of six months.

There were three pairs of Twins.

Thirty cases, not notified under the Act, were visited and are included in the above figures.

In six instances the Nurses were refused admission.

During the year 30 infants died. The following Table gives some particulars of these deaths:—

No	Age	Cause of Death	Method of Feeding	Remarks
1	4 months	Bronchial Pneumonia	Breast; Patent Food	Rooms overheated and stuffy
2	2 months	Whooping Cough	Breast; Bottle	Twin. Delicate from birth
3	3 months	Prematurity		Ill 3 days
4	3 months	Marasmus	Breast	
5	3 months	Influenzal Pneumonia	Bottle	In Hospital one month
6	4 months	Meningitis		Twin
7	4 months	Bronchial Pneumonia	Bottle	Twin
8	4 hours	Inanition	Breast	Twin
9	2 hours	Prematurity	Breast	Born at 6½ months
10	2 days	Atelectasis	Breast	
11	2 days	Prematurity	Breast	
12	2 days	Tetanus Nascentium	Breast	Four previous babies died from Syphilis
13	26 days	Congenital Lues	Breast	Good Parents
14	1 month	Gastro-Enteritis	Breast	Healthy Baby
15	8 weeks	Whooping Cough	Bottle	Tubercular
16	2 months	Whooping Cough	Bottle	Family
17	2 months	Broncho-Pneumonia	Breast	Syphilitic
18	2 months	Broncho-Pneumonia	Breast	Family
19	3 months	Acute Bronchitis	Breast	Whooping cough in house
20	3 months	Broncho-Pneumonia	Bottle	Under R.S.P.C.C. Mother Mentally Deficient?

No.	Age	Cause of Death	Method of Feeding	Remarks
17	8 months	Marasmus ; Whooping Cough	Bottle	Delicate from birth
18	14 days	Marasmus ; Prematurity		
19	8 days	Difficult birth due to short cord		
20	11 hours	Prematurity		
21	6 hours	Prematurity		
22	3 hours	Prematurity		
23	3 months	Gastro-Enteritis	Bottle, long tube	All advice refused
24	11 days	Congenital stenosis of Bile Duct	Spoon	Refused food
25	5 months	Acute intestinal Obstruction	Breast	Careless mother
26	6 hours	Prematurity		
27	26 days	Gastric Hæmorrhage		
28	16 hours	Double Hare-lip and Cleft Palate		
29	3 days	Prematurity		
30	8 hours	Prematurity		

INFANT MORTALITY

There were thirty deaths of infants under one year of age. This gives a mortality per thousand births of 55.6.

There have been 539 births registered during the year, and 472 have been visited for the first time.

The visits take place at the end of ten days or a fortnight, so that the mother can be urged to breast-feed her baby, and where this is not possible, advice is given as to the best results to be obtained by using a suitable food. Cases of wrong feeding are frequently found, and the Nurses devote considerable care and attention to these cases, visiting in some cases two or three times a week until the infant shows signs of improvement. The parents are grateful for the advice given and the interest shown.

Early visiting is necessary, and by the advice given the baby is often saved from much suffering, resulting from the advice of neighbours, who, quite innocently, recommend a mother to try various patent foods.

A great number of mothers turn to artificial feeding after a couple of months of breast feeding. The cause of this change is worry and lack of nourishment, the father in many cases being unemployed or on short time.

Dried Milk has been supplied to babies, children, nursing and expectant mothers at cost price, and in necessitous cases free of cost or at a reduced rate. A decided improvement in the condition of both mothers and children can often be seen as a result.

Rickets, especially in the less severe forms, has been common during the last few sunless years, and in these cases it is often very difficult to secure suitable feeding, especially during the early stages of the disease, when the parents tend to be sceptical as to its presence. Some of the worst cases occur in children kept on the breast too long, or unsuitably fed after weaning.

Bronchitis and Pneumonia are still very prevalent both amongst babies and young children, one or more attacks of the former during the first year being an almost universal experience in the poorer districts.

A particularly severe epidemic of Whooping Cough during the last year has perhaps increased susceptibility both to respiratory diseases and to Rickets.

A very large number of babies are born prematurely, or may be said to be immature full-time children and it is these infants who contribute most largely to the mortality rate, very many of them dying before the first visit of the Nurse is due. The cause of the birth of these weaklings is probably to be found in the very poor condition of many of the mothers, which is in turn due to poverty, poor housing and bad hygiene. In other cases the production of children actually by diseased parents is responsible.

Hospital tickets for the out-patient department are given for mothers and children who cannot afford a doctor.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS PAID DURING 1925

	Totals
Notified Births Visited	472
Notified Births re-visited	3056
Notified Infants Deaths enquired into	20
Notified Infectious Diseases	5
Ante-Natal Visits	100
Children Visited over one year of age	1697
Miscellaneous	645
	<hr/> 5995
Neglected Homes reported to the Inspector of Cruelty to Children	7
Nuisances reported to Medical Officer	7

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

OPHTHALMIC NEURALGIA							
	CASES		Vision Un-im- paired	Vision Im- paired	Total Blind- ness	Deaths	
	Notified	Treated					
		At Home					In Hospital
	3	2	1	3‡	0	0	

‡ One case is still under treatment

GENERAL.

VENEREAL DISEASES

Information as to the place and times where Venereal Diseases Clinics are held is freely made known throughout the District by means of Posters.

The administration of the Clinic is in the hands of the County Authorities and it is locally conducted by Dr. Cotman at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

The following are the figures for treatment during the last nine years, so far as Rochester is concerned.

Year	New Cases	Attendances
1917	15	—
1918	31	118
1919	87	175
1920	72	278
1921	63	705
1922	37	455
1923	42	593
1924	53	642
1925	52	493

THE CONTAGIOUS DISEASES (ANIMALS) ACT

Three cases of Swine Fever were reported during the year. None of these, however, were confirmed.

RAG FLOCK ACT

No action was taken during the year.

LOCAL RAINFALL IN 1925

26'39 inches of rain fell in 1925. There were 28'57 inches in 1924 and the average of the preceding 10 years is 23'7

RATS

During the year 5,419 rats were destroyed by the Corporation Rat Catcher, whose services are available on two and a half days in each week. In 1924 the number was 5,029, in 1923—5,530, in 1922—6,062, in 1921—6,214 and in 1920—4,390

During the year 3,166 poison baits were laid which no doubt caused the death of many rats not included in the above figures.

Forty-two applications for the Rat Catcher's services were received from private persons.

During the year rather more attention than usual has been given to River banks, warehouses and wharves, where 1,041 rats out of the above Total of 5,419, were killed.

St. William's Isolation Hospital

One hundred and thirty-eight cases were admitted during the year. The average for the preceding ten years is 270. 112 cases were admitted in 1924; 165 in 1923; 246 in 1922, and 419 in 1921.

ROCHESTER

Age	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Diphtheria	Total	Total from Rochester
Under Five	7	0	2	9	34
Five and upwards	16	0	9	25	

CHATHAM

					Total from Chatham
Under Five	10	0	8	18	103
Five and upwards	41	3	41	85	

FROM NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES

					Total Neighbouring
Under Five	0	0	0	0	1
Five and upwards	0	0	1	1	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	74	3	61	138	138

Bacteriological examination of patients in the Hospital, for purposes of diagnosis, and before discharge, are made whenever it seems desirable.

The mortality was as follows:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	There was no death
Diphtheria...	...	...	6'3 per cent
Typhoid Fever	...	...	There was no death

Average number of days detained in Hospital:—

Scarlet Fever	...	...	45'4
Diphtheria...	...	...	31'3
Typhoid Fever	...	...	56'3

Cases which terminated in death and cases wrongly diagnosed are not included in these averages. 14'4 per cent of the cases admitted were wrongly diagnosed. In 1924 this percentage was 12'7; in 1923, 8'4; in 1922, 4'4.

Particular attention was drawn to this matter in the Report for 1924, but so far from an improvement having taken place, the figures continue to shew a progressive increase. They shew that in 1925, one-seventh of the accommodation of the Hospital was used by patients who ought not to have been sent there, and this fact is of the greater importance, as an agreement has been reached by which cases of Infectious Disease are to be received at St. William's Hospital from the Borough of Gillingham. This arrangement came into operation on January 1st, 1926, and the number of beds at the Hospital is being increased in order that there may be sufficient accommodation.

TABLE IX.
CAUSES OF DEATH IN ROCHESTER M.B. 1925

Causes of Death.	Males.	Females
ALL CAUSES.	171	190
1 Enteric fever		
2 Small-pox		
3 Measles		1
4 Scarlet fever		
5 Whooping cough	4	1
6 Diphtheria	1	
7 Influenza	8	3
8 Encephalitis lethargica		
9 Meningococcal meningitis		2
10 Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	11	10
11 Other tuberculous diseases	2	2
12 Cancer, malignant disease	19	27
13 Rheumatic fever		1
14 Diabetes	2	4
15 Cerebral hæmorrhage, &c.	7	17
16 Heart disease	15	31
17 Arterio-sclerosis	8	12
18 Bronchitis	10	11
19 Pneumonia (all forms)	15	5
20 Other respiratory diseases	3	1
21 Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	3	1
22 Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years)	2	
23 Appendicitis and typhlitis	2	5
24 Cirrhosis of liver	1	
25 Acute and chronic nephritis... ..	8	3
26 Puerperal sepsis		1
27 Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition		1
28 Congenital debility and malform- ation, premature birth	7	6
29 Suicide		1
30 Other deaths from violence... ..	6	2
31 Other defined diseases	37	42
32 Causes ill-defined or unknown		
Special Causes (included above)		
Poliomyelitis		
Polioencephalitis		
Deaths of Infants { Total	18	12
under 1 year { Illegitimate	1	1
TOTAL BIRTHS	277	262
Legitimate	273	255
Illegitimate	4	7
POPULATION { For Birth Rate	32,080	
{ For Death Rate	31,980	

This Table is supplied by the Registrar General [

Report as to Port Sanitary Authority

To the Chairman and Members of the Port Sanitary Committee.

Health Department,
Guildhall, Rochester

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to lay before you a Report as to the Sanitary Work performed during the year 1925.

FORM A.

Amount of shipping entering the Port Sanitary District during the year 1925.

			No. Inspected		Number reported to be defective	Number of orders issued
		Number	Tonnage	By the Medical Officer of Health	By the Sanitary Inspector	
Foreign	Steamers ...	317	126745	21	293	108
	Motor ...	0	0	0	0	0
	Sailing ...	30	11954	14	29	3
	Fishing ...	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Foreign	347	138699	35	322	111
Coastwise	Steamers } ...	825	235864	10	515	170
	Motor } ...			2		6
	Sailing } ...			7	152	22
	Fishing ...	23		0	23	7
	Total Coastwise	848		19	690	205
Total Foreign and Coastwise		1195	374563	54	1012	316

All orders issued were informal and all were complied with.

Form B

RATS DESTROYED IN 1925

The services of the Corporation Rat Catcher were occasionally used on Riverside buildings and wharfs where he killed 1,041 rats besides laying many poison baits.

Form C

No vessels arrived from plague infected or suspected Ports.

Form D

On August 20th, the French Steamer "Edinborg" arrived from the West Coast of Africa. The Master reported that the fore peak of the vessel was infested with rats. The place was fumigated by SO₂ and twenty three rats were killed and burnt in the ship's furnace.

All the rats met with during the year were of the brown variety, and none were subjected to macroscopic, microscopic or bacteriological examination. As a matter of fact no dead rat was found either afloat or ashore unless he had been previously killed. Every master of a Ship coming into the Port was closely questioned as to the presence of either live or dead rats on board his vessel, and this interrogation was also extended to the Stewards and fore-castle hands.

A Hand Bill with regard to the Destruction of Rats is issued to every vessel and a copy of it appears in the Appendix. There is also, in the Appendix, a copy of the Hand Bill issued with regard to the responsibilities of Master Mariners in the matter of Infectious Disease.

The following vessels were also boarded by the Port Sanitary Inspector:—

Barges	823	Lighters	103
Canal Boats	136	Water Boats	1
Total number of vessels inspected		1753	
" in 1924		1830	
" 1923		1931	
" 1922		2018	
" 1921		1867	
" 1920		2011	
" 1919		1973	
" 1918		1952	
" 1917		1980	
" 1916		1932	
" 1915		2467	
" 1914		2914	

NUMBER AND NATIONALITY OF VESSELS

British 1628, Norwegian 32, Swedish 18, Belgian 19, Dutch 21, Danish 11, Finnish 7, German 5, Esthonian 4, French 3, Greek 2, Irish 2, American 1.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

The chief imports are Timber, Coal, China Clay, Flour, Fruit, Stone, Corn, various Seeds and Kernels for making Cattle Cake, and Wood Pulp.

The chief articles exported are Cement, Cattle Cake and Oil.

Import trade is carried on with Scandinavian, French, Dutch, Belgian, German and Baltic Ports in Europe, and with Chinese and West African Ports.

Cement is shipped to practically all parts of the world, either direct or first taken to London for trans-shipment.

The principal British Ports with which trade is carried on, are the Tyne, Humber, Tees and Sunderland, most of the Scottish Ports, Liverpool, Dublin, Bristol, Cardiff, Swansea, Barry and London.

PORT OF ROCHESTER

REPORT AS TO EXECUTION OF CANAL BOATS ACTS FOR THE YEAR 1925

Name and Address of Inspector—HENRY EVANS, 63 Weston Road, Strood, Rochester.

Remuneration ... £4 per annum.

No boat was detained during the year.

Number of new boats registered	...	...	...	0
„ boats re-registered owing to structural alterations	...	...	...	0
„ „ for other reasons	...	...	...	0
„ boats on Register on December 31st, 1925	...	...	...	100
„ „ inspected	...	...	...	136
„ „ with one or more infringements	...	...	...	28
Total number of infringements	...	...	...	41
„ „ „ remedied	...	...	...	41
„ „ women on boats inspected	...	...	...	0
„ „ children under 5 years	...	...	...	0
„ „ boats on Register	...	...	...	100

CLASSIFIED LIST OF INFRINGEMENTS

Masters without Certificates	...	...	...	14
Boats not properly marked	...	...	...	7
Cabins not in cleanly condition	...	...	...	11
Cabins requiring to be painted	...	...	...	2
Boats with defective bulkheads	...	...	...	4
Drinking water vessels to be provided	...	...	...	1
Leaky decks causing wet berths	...	...	...	2

During the year thirty boats have been struck off the Register owing to their dilapidated condition.

No case of Infectious Disease was met with during the year, nor was it necessary to take legal steps in respect of any infringement.

GENERAL SANITARY WORK OF THE PORT

Systematic inspections of the shipping of the Port are made and vessels specially visited and their crews medically inspected as occasion requires.

The arrangement with the Port of London for inspection of vessels by their Medical Officer at Sheerness has not been finally settled. Representatives of the two Authorities have met in conference and it is expected that a final adjustment will be made within a very short time.

The Port has no special provision for cleansing and disinfecting verminous persons and their belongings, but in case of need the disinfecting station at the Medway Infirmary would be at the disposal of the Port Authorities.

The Local Hospital for Infectious Diseases receives cases of Small Pox, Cerebro Spinal Fever, Typhoid Fever, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria.

There is no arrangement for the receipt of wireless messages relating to the health of incoming vessels.

CONCERNING CREW ACCOMMODATION

As regards the accommodation provided for the Crews in Steam Vessels, there is a great improvement on the old class of Ships. The lower Forecastle is, however, still found in many Boats. The ceiling is, in these cases, the Main Deck, and the Forecastle is, in consequence, deficient in Lighting and Ventilation, apart from its receiving and holding a great quantity of water in heavy weather. The D'Gallant Forecastle, now more generally in vogue, has for its floor the forepart of the Main Deck and entrance is made direct from this Deck, while the lower type of Forecastle is reached by means of a ladder and its Ports have to be closed in any but the finest weather. The D'Gallant Forecastle, being much higher out of the water, allows the Ports to be open in most weathers, as only when the Vessel is driving into a head sea is it necessary to close them. Even with a moderate beam sea the Ports can be left open on the lee side, thus, with the entrance being above the Main Deck a complete through ventilation is possible, and this is an obvious improvement on the lower Forecastle.

In many of the latest built ships the crew are housed Aft, and, in some vessels, amid ships, which adds greatly to the comfort of the men.

Mess Rooms for crews are becoming a fairly common feature in the newest ships. This does away with the use of sleeping quarters for living rooms and both are, in consequence, cleaner and more wholesome.

Structural defects are not so often met with, except in old Sailing Ships but it has to be reported that body vermin appear to be increasing in these ships. Bugs and Fleas are found in most Forecastles and, in some, they are very numerous. Rats are occasionally reported in Foreign going Ships but rarely in Coasters.

SHELL FISH BEDS

There are shell fish layings in the lower reaches of the River, and while it cannot be said that the River is free from pollution, the fish gathered from these layings are invariably found to be clean on the occasions of the frequent examinations to which they are subjected. Shell fish, however, picked up from unauthorised places nearer the City are always dangerous, and numbers of cases of Typhoid Fever, have, in the past, been traced to their consumption.

WATER BOATS.

One boat is used for supplying ships with water for drinking purposes. This boat and its tanks have been inspected nine times during the year, and the tanks have been cleansed and limewashed six times.

CASES OF SICKNESS

Eighty cases of sickness came under observation. Of these, three cases of accident, one of appendicitis, and three of malaria, were removed to hospital. No cases of infectious disease, other than the malaria, were found.

Venereal Disease —The local facilities for treating Venereal Disease are fully made known, by hand-bill, to each vessel on entering the port. No case was reported during the year.

PASSENGERS

As far as is known, no passengers arrived in the Port.

CARGOES

Cargoes of Flour, Potatoes, Onions, Oats, Locust Beans, Sugar, Malt, various Meals and Maize, to the total number of 106, were examined, and mostly found to be in good condition.

Two bushels of stale vegetables were destroyed and twenty-five bushels of Sprats were condemned and sold for manure.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Otterham Quay, Halstow and Whitewall were visited from time to time, and offer no matter for comment.

Riverside factories and wharves have been periodically visited and the Post Regulations duly posted

Seventeen dead dogs, three sheep and one pig found on the foreshore or afloat were disinfected and buried.

The following Table shows the number of notices served during the year by the Port Sanitary Inspector on vessels other than Canal Boats, and the nuisances discovered and dealt with:—

	Foreign	Coastwise	Barges	Total
Forecastles to cleanse	64	110	3	177
Cabins to cleanse	0	0	16	16
Forecastles to paint	3	6	1	10
Cabins to paint	0	0	10	10
Defective light in cabins or forecastles ...	5	10	3	18
Defective ventilation in cabins or forecastles	2	0	4	6
Leaky decks causing wet berths... ..	1	6	2	9
Drinking water tanks to cleanse	13	35	19	67
Defective bulkheads... ..	0	2	4	6
Stoves and funnels to renew	8	10	2	20
W.C.'s to cleanse and disinfect	48	83	0	131
Peaks and Lazarettes to cleanse and limewash	0	9	0	9
Side scuttles and deck prisms to refit ...	13	33	0	46
Bilges to cleanse and disinfect	0	0	9	9
Defective floors in cabins or forecastles ...	0	1	2	3
Food cupboards to cleanse, paint or ventilate	18	44	3	65
Dirty old beds burnt	9	5	2	16
Skylights to glaze	0	0	9	9
To remove filth from forecastle	11	0	0	11
Sleeping berths to paint	18	18	8	44
To provide bottom boards to sleeping berths	0	5	3	8
Skylight and scuttle hatch combings to caulk	0	1	4	5
To repair W.C. seats and doors	4	0	0	4
Seat lockers to repair	0	0	4	4
Cabin ladders to repair	0	0	4	4
Manhole door to provide to drinking water tank	0	0	1	1
Bow lockers to clean out	2	5	0	7
Mess-room tables to repair	2	0	2	4
Ventilator flanges to renew	2	0	0	2
Leaky pawl and windlass bitts to caulk ...	0	13	0	13
Ship stores to remove from crew space ...	1	4	0	5
Forecastle to dry and ventilate	2	0	0	2
Defective scuppers in forecastle... ..	4	1	0	5
Leaky hawse pipes in forecastle... ..	1	2	0	3
Harness cask to scrape and cleanse	1	0	0	1
Vessels disinfected on account of vermin ...	2	0	0	2
	<hr/> 234	<hr/> 403	<hr/> 115	<hr/> 752

All notices were complied with.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

S. PRITCHETT,

Medical Officer of Health

APPENDIX I.

PORT OF ROCHESTER NOTICE

To Ship-masters, Stevedors, Dock-masters and all other persons concerned with Shipping in the Port of Rochester.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS

Under the provisions of the Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, all occupiers of land and buildings and ALL MASTERS OF SHIPS OR VESSELS are required to take all necessary and reasonable steps to destroy rats and mice on their land, buildings or SHIPS.

It is of the HIGHEST IMPORTANCE that the presence of DEAD RATS or of Rats dying from unknown causes in SHIPS OR RIVERSIDE BUILDINGS should be immediately notified to the PORT MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH or to the PORT SANITARY INSPECTOR.

FURTHER INFORMATION

So far as regards VESSELS or RIVERSIDE BUILDINGS can be obtained from the PORT SANITARY INSPECTOR, GUILDHALL, ROCHESTER, who will be ready to advise and assist in the matter of Rat Destruction.

Signed,
S. PRITCHETT,
Port Medical Officer of Health.

Guildhall, Rochester.

August, 1925.

APPENDIX II.

PORT OF ROCHESTER

Health Department,
Guildhall, Rochester.

NOTICE

To Master Mariners, and others whom it may concern.

The Master (or other person in charge) of any Vessel, arriving at the Port of Rochester, with Infectious or Contagious Disease on board must give immediate notice to the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH and remove the Patient to Hospital under his instructions.

The Infectious Diseases alluded to are Plague, Cholera, Yellow Fever, Small Pox, Diphtheria, Scarlet Fever, Typhoid or Enteric Fever and Typhus Fever. Notice must also be given if there is on board any Clothing or other Articles infected with any of the above-mentioned Diseases. The penalty for not reporting is £5.

By Order,
S. PRITCHETT,
Medical Officer of Health.

